13
1076. P 14

A

SERMON

UPON THE WORD

MALT,

PREACHED IN THE

STUMP of a HOLLOW TREE,

By the Rev. *JOHN DODD*, M. A.

BIRMINGHAM,

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A SERMON, &c.

MR. DODD being for some time in a village near Cambridge, and having frequently observed the irregular behaviour of some of the Students of the University, particularly excess in drinking, to which they were greatly addicted, took occasion to explode such practices in public from the Pulpit.

It happened some time after this, that several of these young sparks, riding out, met Mr. DODD on the road. They espied him some distance off, and immediately (on first sight of him) cried out "Here comes Father Dodd "now we will have some sport with the old "man." Accordingly they consulted each other and soon resolved in what manner they would divert themselves on this occasion, namely, by compelling him to preach a sermon in the stump of a Hollow Tree that was near the spot. Mr. Dodd kept jogging on, little thinking of any plot against him, and at length arrived where the

ſtudents were waiting for him. The compliments having paſſed, they aſked the good man if the report they had heard of his preaching of late againſt Drunkenneſs was true. Mr. Dodd replied, that perceiving the Prevalency of ſuch evils, and eſpecially amongſt thoſe from whom better things might be expected, he could not diſpenſe with a delay in reproving the ſame, conſiſtaut with his public character as a Miniſter; therefore he had inveighed againſt a vice ſo very deteſtible in the ſight of God and all good men.

The Collegions then ſaid they had a favour to aſk of him, that he would indulge them with a ſermon from a text of their own chuſing. To this Mr. Dodd replied in the negative, alledging it was highly unreaſonable to require a man publicly to deliver his ſentiments upon any ſubject, without firſt giving him an opportunity to ruminate the ſame in his own thoughts in private; beſides, adds he, I am upon a journey, in purſuit of other concerns at preſent, therefore I deſire you will deſiſt from any further ſolicitations in this affair; to which, the ſtudents anſwered, "They were thoroughly perſuaded he was maſter of Elocution, never at a loſs for matter upon any ſubject, that they would not bear

the thoughts of a denial, and perhaps such a fair opportunity might never again present itself.

Mr. Dodd seeing himself thus beset, replied, "Well gentlemen, as you are thus urgent for my compliance, pray what is the subject I am to handle." They answered, "Sir, the word MALT; and for want of a better, here, Sir, is your Pulpit," pointing to the Stump of a Hollow Tree at hand.

Hereupon the venerable man mounted the rostrum, and addressed his hearers in the following manner.

BELOVED

I am a little man, come, at short warning, to preach a small sermon, upon a small subject, to a thin congregation, and from an unworthy pulpit.

Beloved, my text is

M A L T,

which being but one word, I cannot divide it into sentences or words, nor into syllables, the whole being but a monosyllable, therefore necessity enforces me to divide it into letters, which I find to be these.

M—A—L—T.

M my beloved, is Moral.
A is Allegorical.
L is Literal.
T is Theological.

Beloved,

The moral is well ſet forth to teach you Drunkard good manners; therefore

M my Maſters.
A all of you.
L liſten.
T to my Text.

The allegorical, is when one thing is ſpoken of and another is meant; the thing ſpoken of is MALT, the thing meant is the Oil of MALT,—Strong Beer, which you Bacchanals make.

M your Meat.
A your Apparel.
L your Liberty, and
T your Text.

The literal is according to the letter M.

M Much
A Ale
L Little
T Thrift.

Much Ale, little Thrift.

The Theological is according to the effect it produces, which I find to be of two kinds.

The

Firſt, reſpecting the World.

And

Secondly, in that which is to come.

The effects it produces in this World are, in ſome.

M Murder.

in others

A Adultery,

in all

Licentious Lives,

and in many

Treaſon.

The effects conſequent in the World to come are,

M Miſery,
A Anguiſh,
L Lamentation,
T Torment,

Thus, Sirs, having briefly opened and explained my ſhort text, give me leave to make a little uſe and improvement of the foregoing.

And

First, by way of Exhortation,

M my Maſters,
A all of you,
L leave off,
T Tipling.

Or

Secondly by way of Commination,

M my Maſters,
A all of you
L look for
T Torment.

Now to ſum up the Whole, and draw to a concluſion, by way of caution, take this with you, the Characteriſtic of a Drunkard

A Drunkard is the annoyance of Modeſty,
the trouble of Civility,
the ſpoil of Wealth,
the Deſtruction of Reaſon,

the Brewer's Agent,
the Alehouſeman's Beneſactor,
the Devil's Drudge,
the Beggar's Companion,
the Conſtable's Trouble,
his Wife's Woe,
his Children's Sorrow,
his Neighbour's Shame,
his own Shame,
a walking Swiltub,
a Picture of a Beaſt,
and Monſter of a man,

By this time the Students, being pretty much heated with Liquor, grew ſleepy, which Mr. Dodd perceiving, left them to take their nap.

10 JU 52

FINIS.